

Overview

The purpose of this lesson is for students to learn how to generate questions about historical materials. Students will practice asking and writing questions about five photographs on Dwight D. Eisenhower's life. As part of a class discussion, students will try to answer their questions using the photographs. When the answer cannot be found in the photograph, students will practice early research skills by speculating on other resources where they might find the answer. This lesson can take up to five class periods or can be adjusted to meet individual teacher's needs.

Standards

History:

Benchmark 4, Indicator 3 The student asks questions, shares information, and discusses ideas about the past using resources such as maps, photographs, books, and people.

Reading:

Benchmark 4, Indicator 5 The student uses picture clues, text, and prior knowledge to make inferences and draw conclusions.

Writing:

Benchmark 2, Indicator 2 The student uses details in pictures and words to develop informational writing.

Benchmark 2, Indicator 19 The student capitalizes the beginning of a sentence using correct ending punctuation.

Objectives

Content:

- The student describes major events in the life of President Eisenhower.

Skills:

- The student practices using question words.
- The student generates questions about historical photographs.
- The student predicts where to locate answers to research questions.

Essential Questions

- What are question words?
- What can we learn about the past from photographs?
- Where can we find answers to questions we have about the past?
- Why was President Eisenhower an important Kansan?



Activities

This activity uses the following *Read Kansas* cards:

- **Learning to Ask Questions; Eisenhower Family 1902**
- **Young Dwight, 1904; Dwight and Mamie 1916**
- **General Eisenhower, 1944; President Eisenhower, 1953**

Day 1

1. Begin the lesson by explaining that this is a different type of history lesson. The emphasis of this lesson is on learning to ask questions about history.
 - Explain to students that you will be asking questions about old (historic) photographs. Asking questions is an important part of learning to do research.
 - Explain that after asking the questions, they will review the questions to see how they might find answers for them. Sometimes they will be able to find the answers by looking at the picture; sometimes they will not.
 - Explain that when the photographs do not provide the answer, they will brainstorm other places to look for the answer. Discuss with the class what are good places to look for information about the past.
2. Distribute the **Learning to Ask Questions** *Read Kansas* card to the class and have the class look only at the front of the card.
 - Read aloud to the class the front of the card to establish Eisenhower as the subject of this lesson.
 - Use a classroom map of the United States to locate Kansas and Abilene.
 - Explain that students will be learning more about Eisenhower by asking questions about him based on old photographs.
 - Ask the class to help you make a list of question words. Question words are: who, what, when, where, why, and how. Write them on the board.
 - Remind students that many of the questions they ask in this lesson will begin with one of these words.
3. Have students turn to the back of the card. As a class, look at the photograph of the **Eisenhower Family, 1902**. Give the students time to examine the photograph.
 - Read aloud or have a student read the first question (only the question, not the answer). Ask what word is the “question” word in the sentence.
 - Read through the remaining two questions (only the questions, not the answers) and have students identify the question words.
 - Review the questions one at a time and read the answer for each question. With the class discuss how those questions might be answered by gathering information from the photograph. Some of the questions cannot be answered from the photograph alone.
 - Where might they go to find answers if they cannot find them in the photograph?
 - Ask students to predict where they could look to find the answer to the question if the answer is not in the photograph.
 - Remind them of some places to look for answers: books in the library, encyclopedias, on a website, other photographs, etc.

4. Next ask students to suggest other questions about the photograph and list some of them on a flip chart. Identify the question words in each question. When finished, place the generated questions in a location in the classroom where you can add questions generated from the other four photographs as you complete those lessons.
5. Read aloud to the class the Eisenhower biography article, “**The Eisenhower Family, 1902**” (on page 4). Explain that someone researched Dwight Eisenhower and wrote this story. This information is similar to what students would find in a book in the library.
 - After reading the article, review the questions listed on the flip chart to see if you now have answers to all of the questions. Most likely you will not have answers for every question. Explain to the students that sometimes you have to look in more than one place for answers. Sometimes you get more questions than answers. This is all part of doing research.
 - Remind the students that asking questions is good because it always leads to finding out more information. Good questions will make researchers want to dig for more information.
6. Provide the students with a copy of the **My Questions about President Eisenhower** worksheet. This worksheet will be used for each day of this lesson. Have students locate the image of Eisenhower as a young boy that they saw in the 1902 photograph. Notice that there is already a question written beside that image. Ask students to read aloud that question. Ask students to circle the question word in that question. Ask students if this question was answered by information in the photograph. Ask students if this question was answered by information in the biography article that was read to the class.

Day 2:

1. Briefly review what students learned on Day 1. Distribute the **Young Dwight, 1904 Read Kansas** card to students.
2. Divide the class into groups of two so each student has a partner. Have each group brainstorm one question based on what they see in the photograph and have them write their question on the **My Questions about President Eisenhower** worksheet next to the image that matches the one on the **Young Dwight, 1904 Read Kansas** card. Have students circle the question word in their question.
3. Share questions with the class and write down three or four of the students’ questions on the flip chart with the previous day’s questions.
4. Review the questions students asked on Day 1. Students may find that they can use the new photograph to answer questions they had from the previous day’s lesson. Ask the class if these questions were answered from the new photograph they have just seen.
5. Read aloud to the class the Eisenhower biography article, “**Young Dwight, 1904**” (on page 4).
6. Ask for a show of hands as to how many of the questions students wrote on their worksheets were answered in the photograph. Ask for a show of hands as to how many of the students’ questions were answered in the biography article. Ask for a show of hands as to how many of the students’ questions needed for them to look in other places; in other words, to do more research.

Day 3:

- Repeat activities using the **Dwight and Mamie, 1916 Read Kansas** card.

Day 4:

- Repeat activities using the **General Eisenhower, 1944 Read Kansas** card.

Day 5:

1. Repeat activities using the **President Eisenhower, 1953** *Read Kansas* card.
2. Students will write their fifth and final question on the **My Questions about President Eisenhower** worksheet. As a closing activity, ask which questions on the students' worksheets were answered as they completed the lesson. How many questions were not answered? Brainstorm with the class where they might find answers to the unanswered questions remaining on the flip chart.
3. As a summary of this lesson, you may wish to ask the class to answer the Essential Questions.

Assessment

- Observe the students' ability to ask questions of the photographs.
- Evaluate the quality of the students' questions on the **My Questions About President Eisenhower** worksheet.
- Evaluate the students' ability to use and underline question words.

For the Teacher

Eisenhower Biographical Articles

The Eisenhower Family, 1902

Dwight David Eisenhower was born in Denison, Texas, on October 14, 1890. His parents, David and Ida, moved to Texas from Kansas but lived there only a short time. They moved to Abilene, Kansas, before Dwight was a year old. He always considered Abilene his hometown.

Dwight was the third of seven sons. One son died as a baby. This is a picture of the Eisenhower family in 1902. In the front row is David, the father; Milton; and Ida, the mother. In the back row (from left) are Dwight, Edgar, Earl, Arthur, and Roy.

Young Dwight, 1904

In this photograph Dwight is the boy in front in the bibbed overalls. Dwight was called "Ike" as a boy. His older brother, Edgar, was known as "Big Ike." Dwight was called "Little Ike" and then just "Ike." He grew up hunting, swimming, camping, and fishing in the Smoky Hill River. Ike was very good at football and baseball and played both sports at Abilene High School. He once said of his childhood, "I have found out in later years we were very poor. But the glory of America is that we didn't know it then. All we knew was that our parents could say to us that opportunity was all about us. All we had to do was to reach out and take it."

Dwight and Mamie, 1916

When Ike graduated from high school he wanted to go to college but his family did not have money to send him. He and his older brother decided to take turns working and going to college. Ike learned from a friend about the military colleges. He could go to college for free. Ike studied hard and was admitted to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point in 1911. In college, he played football until a knee injury forced him to quit playing.

Ike's first military assignment was in Texas. It was there that he met his future wife, Mamie Doud. She was visiting Texas with her family. In July 1916 they were married at the Doud's home in Denver, Colorado. Ike was 25 years old. This photograph was taken shortly after their marriage.

General Eisenhower, 1944

In this photograph, Eisenhower is a four-star general. He is speaking to paratroopers. These are soldiers who jump out of airplanes and gliders to fight. They have their faces painted black because they will be jumping at night and do not want the enemy to see them. The man he is speaking to has the number 23 around his neck. This is the number of his glider.

The troops are part of the D-Day invasion force that took place on June 6, 1944. This was a very important battle in World War II. The United States and allies landed in France to fight the German troops. General Eisenhower was in charge of this battle. The Germans were defeated and Eisenhower was a hero. He was promoted to a five-star general and made General of the Army.

President Eisenhower, 1953

Following the end of World War II, Eisenhower continued to serve in the U. S. Army. Later he became president of Columbia University in New York City. As a leader and war hero, many people wanted him to run for president of the United States. He agreed and won election in 1952.

In this photograph, Mr. Eisenhower is the man with his right arm raised. He is taking the oath of office on the steps of the Capitol in Washington D.C. The Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court is swearing him in as the new president of the United States.

President Eisenhower was reelected in 1956. During his two terms in office, two states were added to the Union--Alaska and Hawaii--bringing the total number of states to 50. He signed the Federal Highway Act in 1956 to build a national highway system now officially known as the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This made travel by car much faster and easier. Also, the National Air and Space Administration (NASA) was organized. President Eisenhower died in 1969 after a long illness. He is buried next to his wife at the chapel at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library and Presidential Center in Abilene.

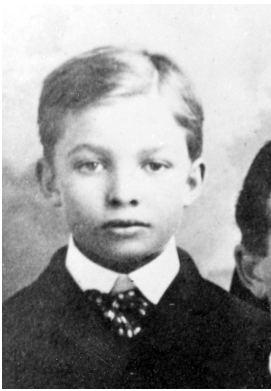
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Resources for this lesson are from:

- Kansas State Historical Society collections
- Library of Congress
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Library and Presidential Center

Name: _____

My Questions About President Eisenhower



Who are the
people in this
photograph?





